

These proposals were adopted at the concluding meeting, and will be submitted to the governments and societies of various countries, and it is earnestly to be hoped that steps will at once be taken to carry the proposals into practise, and so prepare the way for a standard map of the world. Similar steps were taken for the formation of an International Cartographic Association for the issue of standard maps showing at a glance the progress of exploration in each country. Another scheme brought before the congress was that of M. Lecoq, of Brussels, for the establishment of an International Polar Commission. The congress agreed that it was desirable to submit the scheme to the governments interested, but there is a strong feeling in certain influential quarters that any such scheme is unnecessary, at least so far as those countries most interested in polar exploration are concerned. The proposal of Captain Roncagli, secretary of the Italian Geographical Society, for the establishment of an International Bureau for the dissemination of commercial information as to new countries was approved, apparently without realizing what it implied. Another resolution adopted by a large majority was that France should adopt the Greenwich meridian, that the hours of the day should be enumerated consecutively from midnight to midnight, and that all public clocks, including those of railways, should be regulated according to the legal hour. A commission which may lead to interesting results was agreed to for the creation of a collection of photographs illustrating the various forms of the earth's crust, and another for the more thorough exploration of the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean.

After a keen debate as to the next place of meeting—Lisbon, Budapest and Rome having put in claims—the last-named was adopted, and the date fixed for 1911, when Italy will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of her independence.

#### REPORT OF THE BRITISH FISHERIES COMMITTEE

THE report of the committee appointed to inquire into the scientific and statistical in-

vestigations now being carried on in relation to the fishing industry of the United Kingdom has been published. The committee, consisting of Mr. H. J. Tennant, M.P. (chairman), the Hon. C. H. W. Wilson, M.P. (now Lord Nunburnholme), Sir Reginald MacLeod, Under-Secretary, Scottish Office, Mr. N. W. Helme, M.P., Mr. Archibald Williamson, M.P., Mr. P. Chalmers Mitchell, D.Sc., F.R.S., Mr. J. Stanley Gardiner, F.R.S., the Rev. W. S. Green, C.B., chief inspector of Irish fisheries, Mr. R. H. Rew, Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr. L. J. Hewby, treasury, with Mr. A. T. Masterman, D.Sc., Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, as secretary, was appointed to "inquire into the scientific and statistical investigations now being carried on in relation to the fishing industry of the United Kingdom by the fishery departments of the government, the Sea Fisheries Committees, the International Council for the Exploration of the North Sea, and the Marine Biological Association; and to report what work of this character is required in the interests of the fishing industry, and by what methods or agencies it can be most usefully and economically carried out in future."

In its report the committee submits recommendations which are summarized as follows:

1. The establishment of a central council for the United Kingdom which shall have control of public funds for fishery investigations of a national and international character.

2. The strengthening of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries as the central fishing authority for England and Wales, and the provision of additional funds to this board for the encouragement of local work.

3. The continuance of adequate provision to the Fishery Board of Scotland for local scientific research.

4. The continuance of international co-operation in scientific and statistical investigations upon a definite and permanent basis.

5. The continuance of the annual grant of £1,000 to the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom.

The central council should, it is suggested, subject to certain qualifications, be empowered:

1. To expend, or allocate and direct the administration of, such funds as may be voted by Parliament for scientific investigations into questions affecting the common interests of the sea fisheries of the United Kingdom.

2. To draw up such schemes of investigations as the council shall from time to time deem desirable for the solution of practical problems affecting the sea fisheries generally.

3. To arrange for such statistical investigations as the council may deem desirable with the departments charged with the duty of collecting fishery statistics, and to place so far as practicable such statistics on a uniform basis throughout the United Kingdom.

4. To arrange for the coordination of schemes of investigations under their direction with any similar schemes undertaken by other nations interested in fisheries frequented by British fishermen.

5. To select, direct and, if necessary, to equip any agents for the conduct of such investigations as they may require to be carried out.

6. To take over or acquire vessels properly equipped for fishery investigations.

7. To present to the treasury and to each of the ministers having charge of fishery departments an annual report on the progress of the investigations under their direction and on the results from time to time obtained.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE honor of knighthood has been conferred on Professor A. G. Greenhill, F.R.S., the eminent mathematician of the Ordinance College, Woolwich.

SIR WILLIAM RAMSAY was made an honorary doctor of medicine at the University of Jena on the occasion of the celebration of the three hundred and fiftieth anniversary of its foundation.

DR. GEORG QUINCKE, professor of physics at Heidelberg, and Dr. Friedrich Hildebrand, professor of botany at Freiburg, have celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their doctorates.

DR. REYE, professor of mathematics at Strasburg, has retired from active service.

DR. HENRY M. HURD, superintendent of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, has been appointed a member of the Maryland state lunacy commission, vice Dr. Charles F. Bevan, retired.

PROFESSOR G. W. WILSON, of Upper Iowa University, Fayette, Iowa, has held during July and August a research scholarship at the New York Botanical Garden.

A PRIZE founded in honor of the late J. P. Moebius, the neurologist, will be conferred for the first time next year.

M. ANTOINE HENRI BECQUEREL, the eminent French physicist, has died at the age of fifty-six years.

KANSAS City has begun work upon its new Zoological Gardens, which it is said will be completed in the course of the next five years at a cost of about \$500,000.

MRS. REID, widow of the late Thomas Reid, who was president of the Bermuda Natural History Society and mayor of Hamilton, has given \$2,500 to the Bermuda Aquarium and Biological Station.

PRESS dispatches state that Count Zeppelin has announced that he intends to found an institute for the investigation of the problems of air navigation in the interest of German industry, defence and science. The contributions made by the public, he says, are now far beyond the sum necessary to replace the destroyed airship and beyond the sum he intends to accept toward the recuperation of his private fortune which was spent in airship experiments. All of the surplus now on hand and all further contributions will be added to the endowment of the institute. The Bank of Stuttgart, which is receiving the subscriptions, has \$500,000 deposited to Count Zeppelin's credit, and about \$250,000 has been subscribed but not yet paid.

A CONGRESS on thalassotherapy, or treatment of disease by sea air, sea bathing, etc., will be held next September at Abbazia, near Fiume, on the southern coast of Austria.

At a meeting consisting of representatives of temperance organizations interested in the International Anti-alcohol Congress, which has been held during the past twenty years